

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /030 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:CBROWN/JL
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
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R 152251Z APR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PL

SUBJECT: EMBASSY PROTEST OVER NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

1. POLISH EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY KRYSTOSIK CAME IN TODAY TO SEE EUR/EE DEPUTY DIRECTOR TO LODGE OFFICIAL PROTEST AGAINST AN ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN APRIL 9 ISSUE OF NORFOLK VIRGINIAN PILOT. ARTICLE WAS DESCRIPTION OF FBI'S "CLOAK AND DAGGER" SURVEILLANCE OF POLISH EMBASSY OFFICERS RECENTLY VISITING NORFOLK IN CONNECTION WITH A POLISH THEATRE TROOP'S PERFORMANCE THERE. ARTICLE CLAIMS "STATE DEPARTMENT APPARENTLY WANTS TO MAKE SURE THEY DIDN'T PICK UP ANY OF TIDEWATER'S MILITARY SECRETS WHILE THEY WERE THERE". ALSO, A SPOKESMAN OF THE NORFOLK FBI OFFICE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT INQUIRIES OF THIS TYPE ARE GENERALLY INITIATED AT THE REQUEST OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

2. KRYSTOSIK SAID HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO PROTEST IN STRONGEST TERMS THIS ARTICLE, WITH ITS "GROUNDLESS ALLEGATIONS" AND "DEPLORABLE" INSINUATIONS CONCERNING CONDUCT OF POLISH DIPLOMATS. HE ASKED THAT PROPER STEPS BE TAKEN TO STOP SUCH FBI PRACTICES AND TO CORRECT IMPRESSIONS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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THIS ARTICLE. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID GOP DOES NOT CONSIDER THIS INCIDENT AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF US-POLISH BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. IN RESPONSE EUR/EE DEPUTY DIRECTOR SAID WE TOO AGREE THAT THIS ARTICLE WAS MOST UNFORTUNATE AND CONTAINED A NUMBER OF INACCURACIES. WE WOULD STUDY CAREFULLY WHAT ACTION WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE. IN MEANTIME, POLES SHOULD REALIZE USG HAS VERY LIMITED INFLUENCE OVER WHAT NEWSPAPERS PRINT. AT SAME TIME, GOP DOUBTLESS FAMILIAR WITH HOW SECURITY ORGANS KEEP TAB ON DIPLOMATS. IN ANY EVENT WE SHARE CONCERN OF GOP THAT THIS INCIDENT NOT JEOPARDIZE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF US-POLISH RELATIONS.

4. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT POLES CAME IN AT THE LEVEL THEY DID SUGGESTS THEY DO NOT WANT TO EXAGGERATE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER. WE ARE REPORTING THIS TELEGRAPHICALLY, THOUGH, ON OUTSIDE CHANCE IT MAY BE RAISED, OR RECIPROCATED, IN WARSAW. MEMCON, WITH ARTICLE, BEING POUCHED.

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